

What is claimed:

1. In a communication system, the communication system adapted to provide real-time communication service to a plurality of subscribers, a method for providing status information associated with a plurality of users comprising:

providing a plurality of logon identifiers associated with a first subscriber, each of the plurality of logon identifiers corresponding to one of the plurality of users so that the plurality of users access real-time communication service via the first subscriber;

monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information; and

transmitting the status information associated with one of the plurality of logon identifiers to a second subscriber, the second subscriber having a contact list including the one of the plurality of logon identifiers.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step providing a plurality of logon identifiers associated with a first subscriber comprises providing one of a first name, a last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number corresponding to one of the plurality of users.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information comprises monitoring status associated with one of a first name, a last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number to provide status information.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information comprises monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information based on a registration.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information comprises monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information based on a user input via one of an alphanumeric keypad, a numeric keypad, a touch-sensitive display and a microphone.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring status associated with a plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information comprises monitoring status associated with a plurality of logon identifiers to provide information indicating one of on-line, off-line, busy, away, on-the-phone, out-to-lunch, and nearby.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information comprises monitoring status associated with a plurality of logon identifiers from a wireless device to provide status information, and wherein the wireless device comprises one a cellular telephone, a pager, and an electronic planner.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the status information associated with one of the plurality of logon identifiers to a second subscriber comprises transmitting information indicating one of on-line, off-line, busy, away, on-the-phone, out-to-lunch, and nearby to a second subscriber.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication system is adapted to provide one of instant messaging service and group chat service to the plurality of subscribers.

10. In a communication system, the communication system adapted to provide real-time communication service to a plurality of subscribers, wherein an apparatus is adapted to provide status information associated with a plurality of users, the apparatus comprising;

a memory;

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being operable to provide a plurality of logon identifiers associated with a first subscriber;

the processor being operable to monitor status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information; and

the processor being operable to transmit the status information associated with one of the plurality of logon identifiers to a second subscriber having a contact list including the one of the plurality of logon identifiers,

wherein each of the plurality of logon identifiers corresponds to one of the plurality of users so that the plurality of users access real-time communication service via the first subscriber.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the communication system is adapted to provide one of instant messaging service and group chat service to the plurality of subscribers.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the controller comprises a controller operable to monitor status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information based on a registration.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the controller comprises a controller operable to monitor status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information based on a user input via one of an alphanumeric keypad, a numeric keypad, a touch-sensitive display and a microphone.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the plurality of logon identifiers comprises one of a first name, a last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number corresponding to one of the plurality of users.

15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the status information comprises information indicating one of the plurality of users being one of on-line, off-line, busy, away, on-the-phone, out-to-lunch, and nearby.

16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the status information comprises status information associated with one of a first name, a last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number corresponding to one of the plurality of users.

17. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the apparatus comprises one of a cellular telephone, a pager, an electronic planner, and a communication network.

18. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the apparatus is integrated into an Internet Protocol (IP) network, a General Packet Radio Services (GPRS) network, a 2.5G network, and a 3G network.

19. In a communication system adapted to provide real-time communication service to a plurality of subscribers, wherein a controller operates in accordance with a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for providing status information associated with a plurality of users, the computer program comprising:

a first routine that directs the controller to provide a plurality of logon identifiers associated with a first subscriber, each of the plurality of logon identifiers corresponding to one of the plurality of users so that the plurality of users access real-time communication service via the first subscriber;

a second routine that directs the controller to monitor status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information; and

a third routine that directs the controller to transmit the status information associated with one of the plurality of logon identifiers to a second subscriber, the second subscriber having a contact list including the one of the plurality of logon identifiers.

20. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the first routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to provide one of a first name, a last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number corresponding to one of a plurality of users.

21. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to monitor status associated with one of a first name, a last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number to provide status information.

22. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to monitor status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information based on a registration.

23. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to monitor status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status information based on a user input via one of an alphanumeric keypad, a numeric keypad, a touch-sensitive display and a microphone.

24. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to monitor status associated with a plurality of logon identifiers to provide information indicating one of on-line, off-line, busy, away, on-the-phone, out-to-lunch, and nearby.

25. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to monitor status associated with a plurality of logon identifiers from a wireless device to provide status information, and wherein the wireless device comprises one a cellular telephone, a pager, and an electronic planner.

26. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the third routine comprises a routine that directs the controller to transmit information indicating one of on-line, off-line, busy, away, on-the-phone, out-to-lunch, and nearby associated with one of the plurality of logon identifiers to a second subscriber having a contact list including the one of the plurality of logon identifiers.

27. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the communication system is adapted to provide one of instant messaging service and group chat service to the plurality of subscribers.

28. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the medium comprises one of paper, a programmable gate array, application specific integrated circuit, erasable programmable read only memory, read only memory, random access memory, magnetic media, and optical media.

FOIA b 7 - DATED 10/24/01